

APPROVED 01/29/2009

At 6:15 pm the Board's meeting was called to order in the basement meeting room at the Fremont Town Hall. Present were Brett Hunter, Donald Gates Jr, and Gene Cordes; and Town Administrator Heidi Carlson.

TOWN MEETING PREPARATION

1. Selectmen reviewed a final version of "What is SB2?" document for posting and publication. This was approved and will get up to the website as soon as possible.
2. The Deliberative Session is Saturday 31 January 2009 at Ellis School. The snow date is Monday 02 February 2009 at 7:00 pm at Ellis School.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed the minutes for 15 January 2009. Hunter moved to amend them to clarify the discussion on Warrant Article 31 and DRA's enforcement of the authority to include Selectmen and Budget committee recommendations on specific warrant articles. Gates seconded and the vote was approved 3-0.
2. Board members re-reviewed edits to the Board of Selectmen report for the Town Report. The report was approved for publication.
3. Selectmen reviewed a letter dated 01/16/09 from Attorney Roy Weddleton regarding the maintenance bond for Risloves Way. In this letter he outlines questions and concerns that he had discussed earlier with Heidi Carlson regarding the limit that a minimum of \$25,000 had to be posted in cash, consistent with the other road on the warrant this year. Weddleton's letter requests a deviation from the Town's current procedure regarding the two year maintenance bond for Risloves Way. He has requested that the Selectmen either require:
 1. A letter of credit to the Town from a bank in the amount of \$50,000; or
 2. A letter of credit to the Town for \$40,000 with cash in a passbook savings account of \$10,000 with required signatures of the Town and the developer.

The Board discussed this and discussed the reasons surrounding current practice of having sufficient funds posted in cash. It will be further explained that the escrow is leverage for repairs that may need to be done at the end of the two year maintenance period, and that the Town does not just take these escrowed funds and make necessary repairs. The process is that the developer/owner is contacted to make any necessary repairs and asked to get them done in a specified amount of time. If that does not happen, then the Town would take steps to withdraw escrowed security to make the repairs.

The Board indicated that contact should be made with Weddleton indicating that they are in receipt of the letter and reviewed it in depth at the meeting this evening. After considering the points in the letter, the Board has decided it needs to be as originally requested and it needs to be here in place no later than noon Friday January 30, 2009.

At 6:30 pm Kate Dumas came into the meeting. She expressed interest in becoming a Trustee of Trust funds for the two year position to follow-up the meeting she had with the Board last week.

Cordes moved to appoint Kate Dumas to the unexpired term of John Burke as Trustee of the Trust Funds through March 2011. Gates seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

Selectmen signed an appointment form, and Dumas left the meeting at 6:40 pm and took her appointment to the Town Clerk's Office to be sworn in.

4. The Board briefly discussed a cable item, believed to be the last outstanding item, relative to the 11% interest charged by Comcast on infrastructure upgrades. The Board decided that Cordes will contact Attorney Epstein tomorrow and finalize the Board's discussion.

5. The Board needs to renew CTAP representative appointments. Carlson sent an email and asked Jack Karcz and Janice O'Brien if they are still interested.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed the payroll and accounts payable manifests both dated 23 January 2009. Gates moved to approve the payroll manifest \$20,644.08. Hunter seconded and the vote was unanimously approved. Gates then moved to approve the accounts payable manifest \$39,494.02. Hunter seconded and the vote was unanimously approved.

2. Carlson advised that Jeanne Nygren had been preparing all of the information for reimbursement of storm costs in follow-up to the FEMA declaration for the December ice storm. The last items needed are some billing information from the Road Agent and some of his contractors. This needs to be completed by next week.

3. The Board reviewed the folder of incoming correspondence.

4. Selectmen reviewed a Yield Tax Warrant on parcels 02-027 and 04-013 in the total amount of \$1,895.10. Motion was made by Gates and seconded by Hunter to approve this warrant. The vote was 2-0-1 with Cordes abstaining as it included his property.

At 7:00 pm there were no Department Heads present.

Lori Holmes came in to the meeting to drop off some items and talked with the Board about election sign-ups.

5. At 7:20 pm The Board then began reviewing the Warrant Article Narrative. There was discussion and comment about warrant articles and narrative information that accompanied them. Updates were made to the document throughout.

Specific discussions included Article 21 to improve the language to explain what might happen for acceptance of grants up to the total project cost with regard to the Town Hall basement renovations.

The Board discussed working on an amendment to the article to be proposed to allow for such grants if they became available. Specifically, the Board discussed conditioning the project upon receipt of grants or other federal or state funds such that taxpayers do not pay out of pocket for the entire cost if possible/available.

The Board discussed the energy exemption articles and indicated it was their intent to encourage alternative energy systems so that by having the exemption it makes it more cost-effective. These certain improvements to properties (wind, wood, solar) are the only ones available by statute at this time.

The Board feels that having the exemption for these type of systems will encourage their use and/or installation.

It was clarified that the exemption only applies to the added value for these systems.

The Board wanted to be clear that adoption of Article 31 will make it is legally appropriate to include recommendations of the Budget committee and Board of Selectmen on all appropriation warrant articles, as long as the legislative body votes in the affirmative.

Discussion on Article 32 regarding the acceptance of Risloves Way was discussed. If it does not get voted in, this road will remain private.

There was discussion about the cable revolving fund.

6. There was discussion about the FEMA reimbursement that Jeanne Nygren is working on for the recent ice storm. Highway contractors need to submit their invoicing on their own bill heads. Cordes suggested that a form be created for use to get the necessary vehicle description information for the submittal.

NEXT WEEK

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Thursday January 29, 2009 at 6:00 pm. It will begin with a session with legal counsel at 6:00 pm.

With no further business to legally come before the Board, motion was made by Hunter and seconded by Gates to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm. The vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson
Town Administrator